

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **May Meeting**

**All Things Field Day  
By Jim Peterson, K6EI**

**Wednesday May 11  
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:  
American Red Cross,  
Silicon Valley Chapter  
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr  
(southwest corner) in San Jose

Map at [www.wvara.org/meetings.html](http://www.wvara.org/meetings.html)

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)		
Band	Frequency	PL
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz

## **Club Net**

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at [www.wvara.org/net.html](http://www.wvara.org/net.html).

**Visitors Are Welcome!**

## **President's Letter**

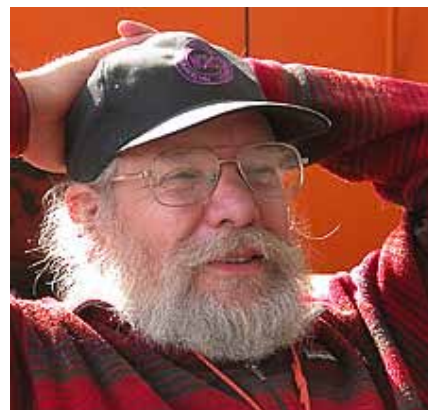
### **Advice for a VHF Rover**

I've been a wild rover for only one year  
I've spent all my money on radio gear  
And now I'm returning with Qs and great score  
And I certainly will play the wild rover some more.

I played rover in the ARRL January VHF contest this year. It was my first experience as a rover, and I learned a few things that my help others who are starting to rove.

Since the rule change that permitted contest contacts on the 2 meter national calling frequency, most contacts seemed to occur there and on the other national calling frequencies. So program your radio for them in all the modes you will be using. Doing so will help you have your radio set up correctly when you change bands or modes. Let me tell you, it's embarrassing to be using FM on the SSB calling frequency.

If you are using computer logging, connect your radio to your logging computer to help get the band & mode correctly entered in your log. I used a separate log for each grid square, but



there may be logging programs with better support for VHF contest roving than RUMlogNG.

Paper logging is also a viable technique. When I used a paper log I had many people tell me that I had already worked them. For paper, I need a better dup checking system.

While you are driving, monitor 146.520 MHz, the national 2 meter FM calling frequency. Stations will pop up when you are between operating positions. Stop and work them, or have your partner work them.

Get an app for your smart phone that will show you your current grid square. I use one called Maidenhead on my iPhone and it works quite well. With one of these apps, there will be no mistake about where you are.

VHF contests are very relaxed and informal. The contestants sometimes even stop and do some rag chewing. I've invited people to our meetings while operating the contest, and others have offered advice about where to tune to get some more contacts. It is almost like the goal is the maximize the total score of everyone entering the contest.

Even if you "only" have a HT, you can have fun. The Single Operator, FM Only entry category is set up just for you. You can either operate as a fixed station from home, or go out as a rover and enjoy the views from the bay area's high places. But in the end, the object is to have fun.

73 Bill AE6JV

## ***About the Meeting***

### **All Things Field Day by Jim Peterson, K6EI**



Mark your calendar. This Wednesday (7pm, May 11) will be our annual "All Things Field Day" meeting. Field Day last year was a real hoot on Mora Hill, and this year may be even more fun. At this week's meeting we will review what's new and discuss WVARA's plans for this year's Field Day event (to be held June 24-26).

Meeting Location: Meeting Room 5 at the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive (southwest corner) in San Jose. Most of us come in through the side entrance on the southwest side of the building — look for our red WVARA sign. And remember, visitors are welcome!

If you haven't been to the Red Cross, "talk-in" is usually available on the Association's repeaters. Best choice would be 2m/220.

And for those who are hungry, several of us will be eating dinner at 5:50pm, just prior to the meeting, at The Habit at 2000 El Camino Real at the corner of Scott Blvd in Santa Clara — a ten minute drive from the Red Cross building. Map of restaurant: <https://goo.gl/maps/NipZ7c1jhUL2>

Menu:

<https://www.habitburger.com/charburger/?MenuVersion=D&region=bay-area&regionDisplay=Bay Area>

Hope to see you there!

Jim Peterson, K6EI

WVARA Field Day Calendar

<b>WVARA Net Check-Ins (W6PIY)</b>					
<b>Tuesdays at 8:30 PM</b>					
<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>4/12/16</b>	<b>4/19/16</b>	<b>4/26/16</b>	<b>5/3/16</b>
Total		13	21	17	14
AA6RB	Roy	X	X	X	
AB6XS	Kevin			X	
AE6JV	Bill		X		
K6BIB	Bodan			X	X
K6BRF	Bert			X	X
K6YOP	Yaron	X	X		
K7RJV	Rex		X		
KA4VBF	Bobby				X
KD6VOR	Marv		X		
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X	X	X
KI6RT	John	X		X	X
KI6SLX	Peri		X		
KJ6CQJ	Dean		X	X	
KJ6GMO	Sue		X	X	
KJ6ZZI	Michael	X	X	X	
KK6EBL	Klouse				X
KK6VF	Kevin	NET	NET	NET	NET
KM6AMQ	Matt		X	X	
KM6AMR	Scott		X		
KS6PD	Steve	X	X	X	
KX6B	Dick	X			
N6FFC	Bill				X
N6UMQ	Curtis		X		
NT6S	Tom		X	X	
W6ESL	Tom				X
W6IA	Mark	X	X		X
W6MNL	Steve	X	X	X	X
W6PK	Phil	X	X		X
W9FFL	Barry			X	
W9KKN	Bill	X	X	X	X
WB6KHP	Dave	X	X	X	X

# 7<sup>th</sup> Area QSO Party (7QP)

Bobby Barnett – KA4VBF

Dave Koberstein – N9DK

Dave and I were looking for an adventure – and last weekend we found it near Summit Mountain in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. We were about an hour's drive on the other side of Austin, NV – which itself is a few hours drive on the other side of nowhere. The site was on the Eureka / Lander county line, at the end of an 8 mile dirt road not suitable for most vehicles.

After tackling that drive, we setup a KX3 operating QRP with an 80m full length dipole, an Endfedz 40/20/15/10 wire antenna, a compact 3 element 20m beam, and a Buddipole tuned for 15m. Battery power was supplemented with a couple of solar panels, and we ran FLDIGI and N1MM on laptops to round things out. Everything worked fantastically.

With the technical stuff is out of the way, let me say that this region is drop dead gorgeous. It was serene, beautiful, and majestic. Snow capped mountains, huge valleys, wild horses, antelope, flower, cactus – the beauty never ended. The valley floor was about 7000' above sea level. Our site was only ~300' above that, and nearby mountains peaked at 11,000' to 13,000'. It looked as if Hoss and Little Joe would ride by on horseback at any minute just to say hello.

Propagation was quite good from this location and we tallied 166 QSOs, a couple of which were to another WVARA member (Mark Sayre W6IA) and his friend in Washington on another outing for this same event. In the end, our multipliers included 27 states and Brazil, for an N1MM reported total score of 12,880. Unless someone else made a great showing in this category this year, this is good enough for the 7QP all time 3<sup>rd</sup> place QRP multi-operator single-station record! We've already got plans on how to do better next time.



Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Mul
3.5	CW	18	54	0
7	CW	10	30	0
7	LSB	32	64	5
7	RTTY	32	96	3
14	CW	32	96	7
14	RTTY	36	108	10
14	USB	6	12	3
Total	Both	166	460	28
Score: 12,880				



## 7QP Adventures in Washington by Mark Sayre, W6IA

In Washington, WVARA member Mark Sayre, W6IA, joined his friend Tim Smith, K7MAQ, to operate a county-line expedition. We activated Grays Harbor County (WAGRY) and Pacific County (WA-PAC) while operating inside a Yurt at a state park that borders the two counties right on the Pacific Ocean. We ran two K3's on SSB, CW and some JT65. We had only wire antennas ... a 10-80 dipole and a 10-40 dipole both strung up between trees at the campsite. Working 40 in the early morning hours of the contest was really the highlight ... it was great to work so many not-often-heard counties in 7-Land and also the fleet of mobile rovers. We were very happy to work Bobby, KA4VBF, and Dave, N9DK, from their county-line expedition site in Nevada. We had a great time in 7QP and both learned a lot in the process.

73 de Mark, W6IA



## **Treasurer's Report**

Your Treasurer is currently in New Hampshire on family business, and won't be able to provide detailed financial reports until the meeting. The only major activities I can recall are reimbursing Kevin for repeater repairs, and a pending reimbursement to Jim for reserving the site for our August picnic. Both were in the budget, and our finances are in good shape. See you at the meeting.

## **Ham Crams**

Los Gatos/Monte Sereno ARES/RACES is planning on offering ham crams on August 6 and November 12 this year. These classes run from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Contact Peter Hertan, K6PLH <phertan at alum.mit.edu> for more information.

73 Bill AE6JV

## **Pacificon 2016 Friday Oct 14 to Sunday Oct 16, 2016**

**San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon, CA 94583**

## **2016 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Board**

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